

Welcome to the spring term newsletter. Thank you to the childcare providers who have sent in their 'Good News' stories and celebrations!

Team updates

Feedback from the Local Authority's Annual Conversation

In January, Elizabeth Hartley, Senior Manager for Early Help, represented Wirral's Early Years services at the Annual Conversation with Ofsted in Manchester.

The meeting was very positive with lots of impressive progress and performance outcomes

to report. Strong partnerships across the sector were acknowledged, specifically the re-engagement with NDNA and Childminder networks.

Key outcomes were; the vast majority of 2 year olds taking up their free entitlement, the positive number of settings

judged 'good' or better and the increasing number of families accessing 30 hours pxc. It was recognised that through the continued efforts of all, it is driving up quality and Ofsted hold confidence in Wirral's Early Years to make a difference in preparing children to be school ready. Well done all!

SEND Update

We are reviewing Inclusive Practice funding requests. We are planning to hold a meeting on Tuesday 24th April 2018 at Pensby Childrens Centre, 5-7pm, where we can have a discussion about how the new process is progressing, updates and snags. A letter confirming this date will be sent out in the near future.

Please please remember that 2, 3 and 4 year olds do not have the knowledge and skills that an adult has and it is the role of the adult to interpret behaviours as a means of communication. Thanks to the settings that already do this. We are planning on starting a rollout programme in September for an Accredited SENCo course - details to follow when we have set dates.

Please send in referrals as soon as possible, for children going to school in September where you think they may have SEND, to allow us time to support you with the paperwork required.

The ECS SEND team attended a conference where there was an excellent speaker on Early childhood trauma - wow! the impact is even greater than I thought! We are hoping to get the speaker to Wirral and I am sure she will positively affect our practice.

Funding

The DfE have updated the criteria for 2yr funding and Early Years Pupil Premium in relation to Universal Credit for children who had their 2nd or 3rd birthday after 31.12.2017.

The Universal Credit threshold annual net income can't exceed;

- 2yr funding - £15,400
- EYPP - £7,400



Data protection (GDPR)

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires every data controller (e.g. organisation, sole trader) who is processing personal information to register with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO), you can check if you need to do this at <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/register> This can include something as

simple as taking a photo of a child using an electronic device such as a tablet or mobile phone.

The Data Protection Act 1998 is to be replaced by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This is the most important change to data protection and privacy law in two decades. It comes

into force in the UK on 25th May 2018. While it is similar to the 1998 Act in many ways, it takes into account major advances in science and technology. More information on GDPR can be accessed at <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr>

Children Centre Updates

Change4life:

Children centres are working in partnership with Health to promote the Change 4 Life “Top Tips for Top Kids” promotion. There are 8 top tips including Sugar Swaps, Meal time, Me size meals, Snack check, 5 a day, Cut back fat, 10 minute bursts of activity and Get going every day. Commencing in March the centres will have a monthly focus on one of the tips which will include display boards and session activities to raise awareness. If you wish to get involved please register your setting at www.nhs.uk/change4life Parents can also register their family for free healthy tips, guidance and resources.

CAMHS Advice Line 0151 488 8453:

Did you know that there is a Wirral CAMHS advice line? The Advice Line is open Monday-Friday, 9am-4.30pm, staffed by experienced CAMHS practitioners. It is for anyone supporting young people (including parents, education & social care staff, GPs & other health professionals) to call for any advice about concerns they might have in regards to a Child or Young Person’s mental health?

Local offer updates

Exciting news! The Local Offer now houses the Family Information Service (FIS). It can be accessed via the homepage - localofferwirral.org by clicking the yellow button, and contains information across a range of topics and I’d welcome your feedback.

The green ‘What’s New’ button at the top of the homepage contains details of all the latest events, newsletters, training courses and activities. The Local Offer now has a Facebook page and a Twitter account: [@lowirral](https://twitter.com/lowirral) to further help share information.

Why not follow us?

Here’s a reminder to register your children on the Children’s Disability Register if they have any kind of additional needs. localofferwirral.org/childrens-disability-register

If you have any suggestions/comments regarding the Local Offer or you would like the Local offer to come and support at any events your setting is planning please contact Sally Tittle by phone on 0151 666 4488 or by email on sallytittle@wirral.gov.uk

Childminder information

Environmental Health

Just to make childminders aware the Environmental Health Department will be arranging to inspect the childminders who have not yet been seen.

The main aim of the visit is to ensure that there is a good level of knowledge relating to the preparation, storage and reheating of food.



Health

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) have produced some free resources for childcare providers relating to health and hygiene - these can be accessed at www.ndna.org.uk/NDNA/RB/RB_Main_Page.aspx

The Childrens Food Trust has an ‘Eat Better, Do Better’ programme with lots of useful information for early year’s settings, free downloadable resources and a national award scheme. This can be accessed at www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/childrens-food-trust/early-years

Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) has a wealth of information on its website useful to settings and parents - this can be accessed at www.capt.org.uk

Public health England has produced new guidance docs for health protection in settings at www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities

Training

It has been noted recently that a number of settings have had a reduced Ofsted judgement because first aid certificates were out of date. We would advise that you start looking for suitable training at least six months before certificates run out, as the amount of full and relevant courses offered is limited.

EYQ Training: Examples of future training opportunities include:

- **Manual Handling:** Wednesday 23 May 2018, Ganneys Meadow Nursery School & Family Centre, 9:30am-12:30pm, £30.
- **Supporting Children who speak English as an Additional Language (EAL):** Thursday 21 June 2018, Ganneys Meadow Nursery School & Family Centre. 9:30am-12:30pm, £30.
- **Introduction to Sign to Support Children’s Speech and Language:** Insight into the use of sign in supporting the early language development of young children.

More information and a full list of courses can be found at www.eyqtraining.co.uk

Ofsted Update

As of 1 April 2018, Ofsted will be removing the self-evaluation form (SEF) from its website. The decision was made after a full review by Ofsted with consultation from early years leaders, managers and its National Consultative Forum.

Ofsted hopes that this will remove the burden on early years providers and forms part of Ofsted's early years 'myth-busting' campaign:

- Myth: Ofsted expects leaders to complete a written self-evaluation form (SEF).
- Fact: Childcare providers do not need to produce a self-evaluation form, but managers and staff should be able to discuss their evaluation of the setting with the inspector. Inspectors will ask staff about the quality of care and activities they provide, and how well the setting is meeting the learning needs of all children.

Good News & Celebrations



Thank you

The Early Years Business Support and Quality Improvement Team donated a parcel of essential goods to the Charles Thompson Mission to support the homeless over the Christmas period.

Fund raising for Edie

You've probably heard and seen the Spider Ede Appeal... one of the children at Park Wood Day Nursery, Edie, has sadly been diagnosed with DIPG brain tumour which is untreatable on the NHS in the UK. Her mum is also a practitioner at the nursery.

The family are currently in Mexico, where Edie does have a chance of survival with some new treatment, but it is costly and therefore the Spider Ede Appeal has been established and people are fundraising. At Park Wood just under £500 was raised, and as a childcare group, Just Childcare raised just under £7,000



Elf Day in support of The Alzheimer's Society



Busy Bees!

On 5th Jan Busy Bees Day Nursery in Bromborough had a special visit from Amanda Speilman Chief Inspector of Ofsted and Gill Jones Ofsted's Deputy Director of Early Education. During the visit they were able to showcase and discuss all aspects of the nursery setting and practice. Future visits planned include WBC Road Safety officers and a special visit from Merseyside Police.



Firbobs Out of School Clubs have supported many charities over the years normally because the cause touched one of the team or the children.

Supporting the Alzheimer's Society Elf Day in December was suggested by Jess from the Club based at Mersey Park School. A grand total of £500 was raised for this worthy cause from across the 10 Firbobs clubs.

Pictured: Stephanie Cookson (left) and Jess Parnell (right) having been Pie Faced on National Elf Day.

Intergenerational care: bringing old & young together

Jack and Jill Day Nursery began the Intergenerational Partnership journey last year. It was so successful that they have now linked each of their nurseries to a local care home which they visit once a month. The children have been given this wonderful and unique opportunity to learn about their wider community and both the residents and children have a lot to teach and learn from each other.

It is hoped that the residents will be coming to the nurseries to visit soon which they are really looking forward to. A difference has been seen in the children and the residents and the nurseries would love to inspire others to do the same.



Useful links

- The government has produced various updated information sheets for providers and parents. Access them: http://transfer.23red.com/public/files/3x0j-47c7fkfg?utm_source=Foundation+Years&utm_campaign=07838f5d2c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_11_07&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e05004a334-07838f5d2c-296106041
- Children's Centre 'what's on' timetables of activities can be accessed through the Wirral Council website: www.wirral.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/childrens-centres

Congrats!

Congratulations to Childminder Rebecca Hiton and also to Little Rainbows and Daisy and Jake (Moreton) day Nurseries, who all achieved an Outstanding Ofsted Judgement in their most recent inspections.